

Don't spend tax dollars on freeway

Dear Editor:

Susi Fathauer's guest commentary (*AFN* Dec. 24, 2005) did clarify a recent question for me.

In a previous letter to the editor, I was outraged to see the comment that people who bought within a mile of the proposed freeway paid less for their homes and knew the risk. I purchased my home from UDC several years (in 1997) after Ms. Fathauer purchased her home and am within a half-mile of Pecos Road. Not only did the builder not give a discount, the plot plan reflected a proposed road, not a freeway, and my lot came with a hefty premium due to its proximity to the Club West golf course, which dips down close to Pecos by 17th Avenue.

I will point out that this same outdated plan, which is now the only justification I hear for building the freeway, shows a public park at the end of my street (not in existence), a commercial zone at the corner of 17th and Pecos (rezoned and eliminated) and reflects that Pecos Road already goes around South Mountain to connect to the west side (as several older maps of the area still reflect). Why should I accept the fact that the freeway is not open for discussion when every aspect of what was reflected when most of us purchased our homes has changed?

I challenge the reasoning that a major truck highway will ease traffic and not negatively impact the quality of life in our community. The Arizona Department of Transportation should spend the money to allow for greater commercial traffic flow on state Route 85 and Interstate 8. The population in the Club West/Foothills area is at or near the maximum; there are no longer any significant amounts of buildable land left. Adding Loop 202 will not eliminate congestion in rush hour at the Broadway curve nor will it prevent a major traffic accident from tying up and/or closing a major thoroughfare. It will, however, forever alter the community that we now call home.

Spending millions of dollars to allow a few residents to cut the time it takes to get to Disneyland or to see the Coyotes is not justified. Improve mass transit to the area, (there is still no bus service or ALEX buses available west of Desert Foothills Parkway), give us a bus loop to the Park and Ride, increase the amount of light rail and provide some meaningful alternatives to driving on Interstate 10 before building a 10-lane freeway in everyone's back yard. Whether you are one mile or five miles from the proposed freeway, building this type of roadway in our community will affect the area without bringing significant benefits. I want my tax dollars spent elsewhere.

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